GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1086
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Expanding Distribution of Pulses
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government agencies have been directed to expand procurement of pulses directly from the farmers in all pulses producing States, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government has decided to set up an entity to manage buffer stock of pulses, and for their storage and disposal under Public Private Partnership (PPP), if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government proposes to sell subsidized pulses and other essential items through Post Offices, if so, the details thereof along with the time-frame fixed for the puspose; and
(d) whether the Government has reviewed the availability and prices of essential commodities and decided to release them from buffer stock through retail distribution at reasonable prices, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) : The designated agencies viz. NAFED, FCI and SFAC have been directed to undertake procurement of pulses from the farmers in producing States with support from Price Stabilisation Fund for building the buffer stock of upto 20 lakh tonnes of pulses.

(b) : Government has approved engaging professional pulses buffer management entity for efficient management of the buffer stock.

(c) : Among the options available for market intervention to moderate the price rise, allocation of Chana through branches of Post Offices with due publicity for general public is one.

(d) : The Government through high level Inter-ministerial Committees (IMC) constantly reviews the availability and prices of essential commodities. In case of pulses, subsidized Tur, Urad and Chana from buffer stock have been released to States/UTs and Central Agencies for retail distribution at reasonable prices. In addition, Chana from buffer stock is being released through auction to augment domestic availability and stabilize its prices.

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